United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

December Crop Production Report

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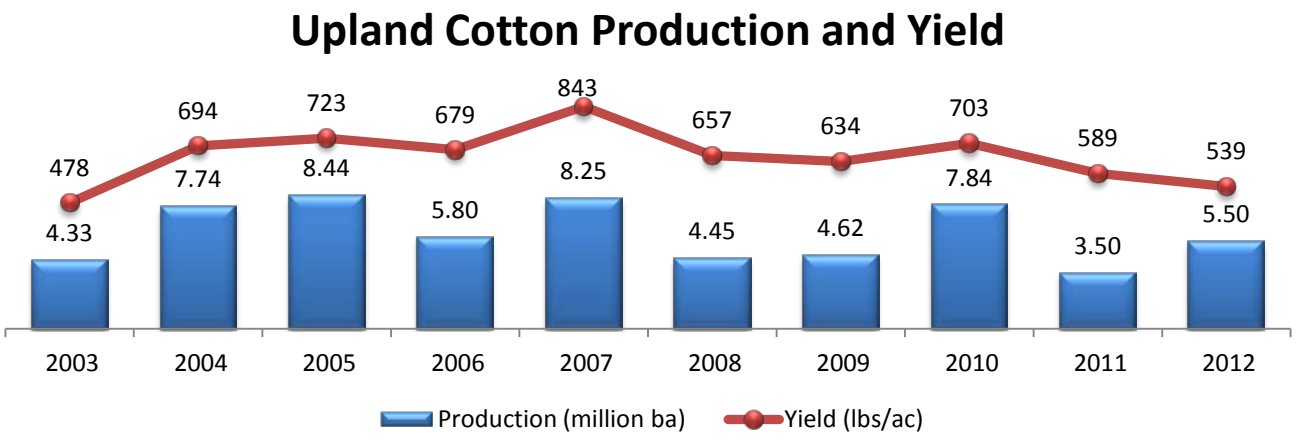
This report contains the results from the December 2012 Objective Yield Surveys. Our thanks to all cotton producers who permitted objective measurements to be taken in their fields.

The 2012 Texas **Upland cotton** crop is expected to total 5.50 million bales, 57 percent higher than 2011. Yield is expected to average 539 pounds per acre, compared with 589 pounds last year. Acreage expected for harvest is estimated at 4.90 million million acres, up 72 percent from 2011.

Production on the Southern High Plains is estimated to total 2.23 million bales, up 129 percent from last year's production. Average yield, at 458 pounds per acre, is 41 pounds less than a year ago. Acreage expected for harvest in the Southern High Plains is at 2.33 million acres, an increase of 1.40 million acres from last year.

The Northern High Plains crop, estimated at 1.18 million bales, is 36 percent more than last year. Average yield, at 726 pounds per acre, is 59 pounds more than a year ago. Acreage expected for harvest in the Northern High Plains is at 780,000 acres, an increase of 158,000 acres from 2011. In the Low Plains, production is at 445,000 bales, 153 percent more than last year. Average yield at 255 pounds per acre, is 245 pounds less than a year ago. The Low Plains expects to harvest 835,000 acres, up 667,000 acres from 2011.



Texas District Estimates 2011 and 2012

Upland Cotton	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield per Acre		Production [1]	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 acres	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*1,000 acres*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*1,000 bales*	*1,000 bales*
1-N	1,248.0	1,030.0	622.3	780.0	667	726	865	1,180
1-S	3,324.0	3,200.0	932.2	2,330.0	499	458	970	2,225
2-N	531.0	470.0	100.6	330.0	569	335	119	230
2-S	806.0	700.0	67.9	505.0	399	204	56	215
4	213.5	140.0	168.8	130.0	285	720	100	195
7	323.8	250.0	67.3	205.0	720	457	101	195
8-N	113.3	80.0	82.6	70.0	741	1,131	128	165
8-S	360.7	280.0	328.7	145.0	701	662	480	200
9	248.3	180.0	200.1	175.0	624	1,262	260	460
10-S	206.7	150.0	172.2	135.0	733	889	263	250
Other Districts	174.7	120.0	107.3	95.0	704	935	157	185
State	7,550.0	6,600.0	2,850.0	4,900.0	589	539	3,500	5,500

[1] Preliminary, December 2012.

U.S. Highlights: United States **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 16.6 million 480-pound bales, up 13 percent from 2011. Upland cotton harvested area is expected to total 10.2 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 11 percent from 2011.

Cotton survey procedures: Objective yield surveys were conducted between November 24 and December 1 to gather information on expected yields as of December 1. The objective yield survey for cotton was conducted in producing States that usually account for approximately 75 percent of the United States production. At crop maturity, the fruit is harvested and weighed. After the farm operator has harvested the sample field, another plot is sampled to obtain current year harvesting loss.

Cotton estimating procedures: National and State level objective yield estimates for cotton were reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates. For cotton, reports from cotton ginners in each State were also considered. Each cotton State Field Office submits its analysis of the current situation to the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB). The ASB uses the survey data and the State analyses to prepare the published December 1 forecast.

Revision policy: The December 1 production forecasts will not be revised. For cotton, a new estimate will be made in January followed by end-of-season revisions in May. Administrative records are reviewed and revisions are made, if data relationships warrant changes. Harvested acres may be revised any time a production forecast is made, if there is strong evidence that the intended harvested area has changed since the last estimate.

Link to the US report: http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1046